

N/E m. H. & C.

A
P L A N
O F
INTERNAL DEFENCE,
IN THE
PRESENT CRISIS.

ENGLAND never did, nor never shall,
Lye at the proud foot of a Conqueror,
But when it first did help to wound itself :
If ENGLAND to itself do rest but true,
Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them.

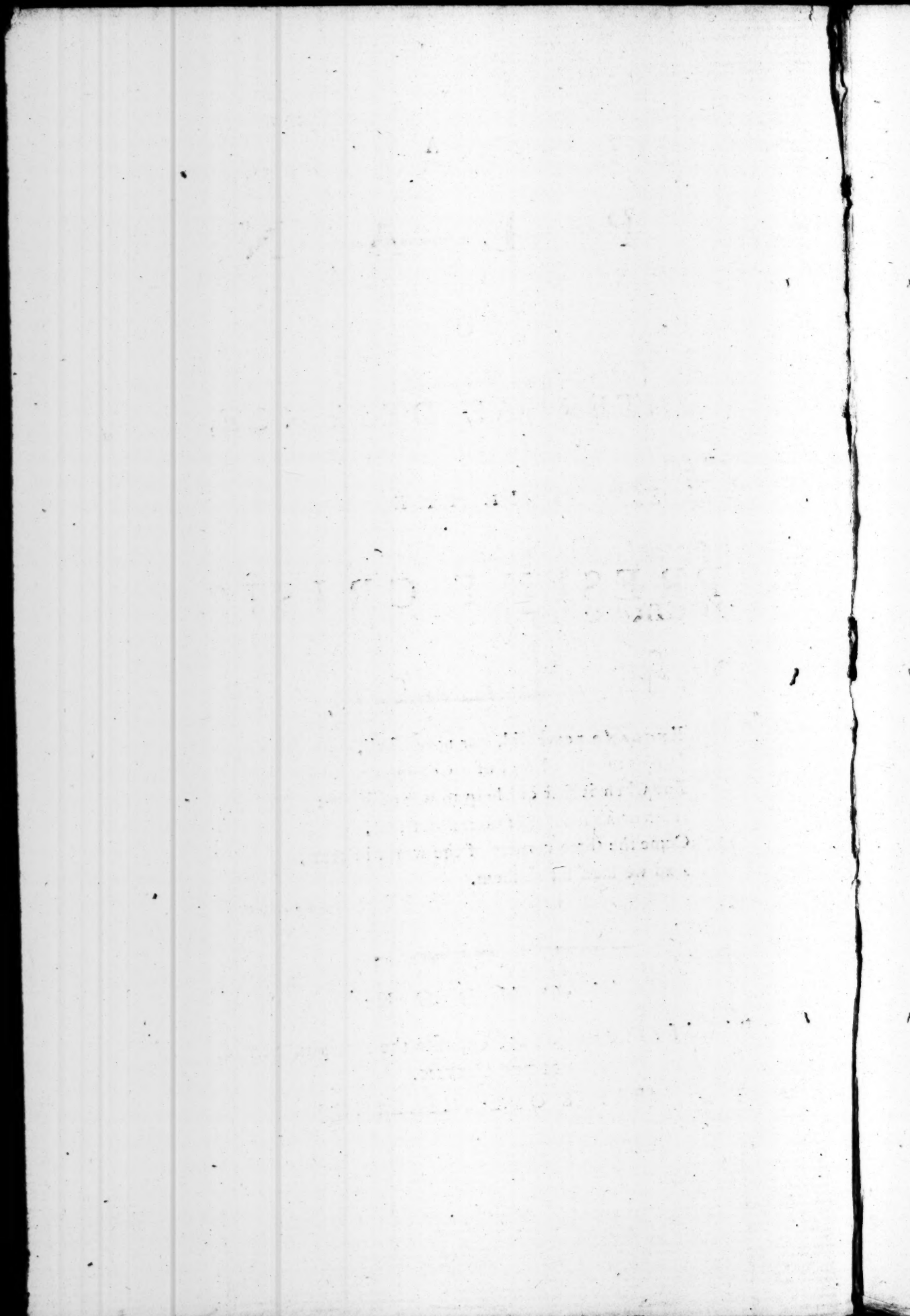
FALCONBRIDGE.

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DEDICATION.

T O

Sir GEORGE SAVILLE, Bart.

THE following Plan of Internal Defence being chiefly founded on the Effects of the present Militia, cannot be more properly addressed than to the Senator who so warmly promoted that Establishment, and the Officer who so eminently evinced its Practicability.

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A
P L A N
O F
INTERNAL DEFENCE, &c.

IT was a maxim of the great De Wit, that the weakest and most defenceless state should not sustain a palpable injury from the strongest and most powerful, without resistance: How then would sound policy direct this nation to act on occasion of the present faithless insult of our Gallic Neighbours?

B

Would

Would it not second the generous ardour which fires every breast, and do not passion and prudence equally call for instant war ?

The goblin Invasion, and the Expence of War, are the two great arguments of the partizans of peace and of France (for they are the same at present) to induce us to put up with shame and dishonour.

To disarm this Goblin of its terrours, and by laying down an efficient Plan of Internal Defence at a small expence ; to set our Navy at liberty to hurl its thunders
on

on our enemies, and at the same time to obviate as far as possible every other objection to war, by leaving sufficient funds for its support, is the aim of the present tract.

Marshal Saxe observes, that whole regiments posted in lines will give way if they see a troop of horse enter within a mile of them, supposing all lost as soon as their entrenchments are forced; which event he recommends them always to be prepared for, and to depend more on repulsing the enemy when entered, than on obstructing their

entrance. On the like principle I would have the people of this nation consider an invasion not only as attempted but executed, and prepare them to look with confidence and contempt on the invader. The seas are our * intrenchments ; let us not at an immense expence keep our Navy hovering round them, but let us for a moment depend on ourselves, and we may find our fleet will be a more effectual guard to this island when acting in their more natural character of assailants.

* You shall find us in our salt-water girdle, if you beat us out of it, it is yours, if you fall in the adventure, our crows shall fare the better for you.

That

That we have resources within ourselves to enable us to act in this manner and to set invasion at defiance, I am thoroughly convinced, and think it will be no great difficulty to point them out to the satisfaction of the most timid.

The following calculations do not pretend to exactness; they are taken in round numbers, and tho' I am convinced put much below the actual fact, yet when summed up will amount to such a force, that any foe, foreign or domestic, may have the satisfaction to deduct

ten or twenty thousand men from the aggregate number, and yet the mortification to find the remainder much more than equal to the task allotted them.----Where these resources are to be found, and how arranged, will be the subject of the following pages.

The Militia, according to the present establishment, amount to upwards of thirty thousand men.

They were first raised in the year 1759; great part were embodied in that and the succeeding year,

year, and continued in actual service till the peace in 1763.

The idea of Country Gentlemen being able to form and discipline entire new regiments, was at first treated as very ridiculous by many Military Pedants, and as the measure was not a great favourite either with the court or the army in general, the greater part of the officers who were sent to instruct them, brave and experienced as they might be in the field, were not such persons as would have been chosen for that purpose, had success been much wished. Many however of the gentlemen

gentlemen of the army, with the true liberality of their profession, lent their assistance; and it fortunately, indeed naturally, happened, that the most able were the most willing to communicate instruction.

Numerous as the disadvantages were which the Militia Officers laboured under on their first establishment, and slender as the assistance that was afforded them, spirit and assiduity soon overcame their difficulties, which indeed were not found near so great as the mysterious policy of many of the military

tary had represented them. The science of training men to arms, which they had been taught to look up to with such awful deference, did not, upon a nearer view, appear so hard of attainment ; and the Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, and Sir George Saville's battalion of Yorkshire, proved there was scarce any degree of perfection at which a Militia Battalion could not arrive. Indeed the whole body were far from having any cause to be ashamed of their discipline ; but as there always will be a difference in the conduct of regiments, according to the different tempers and dispositions

dispositions of the officers, these are mentioned as the most striking that fell under the writer's notice : There might be many others equally excellent, which he had not an opportunity to observe.

Equal excellence is not to be expected in those regiments which were never embodied, but experience has shewn that even the short space of twenty-eight days in the year has been sufficient to form battalions far from contemptible; and such as may be depended on as a very respectable addition to the force of this island ; especially
when

when it is considered how soon they will acquire the necessary discipline when called together.

Perfection in the use of the fire-lock is but part of the necessary qualifications of a soldier ;---this a man might arrive at without leaving his own house ;---a perfect acquaintance with the evolutions is equally necessary, which cannot be attained but by men assembled in bodies ; when they also acquire that idea of the necessity of subordination, which is so essential to military discipline ; for it is not, in general, compulsion, but conviction,

viction, that keeps the soldier in obedience, the necessity of which he soon perceives when assembled with others.

Had the Militia been entirely changed every three years, according to the first idea, it would by this time, taking the numbers at thirty thousand, have been the means of training upwards of one hundred eighty thousand men ; but as many, when their three years were expired, entered again, and thereby prevented the training others in their room, a considerable deduction must be made on
that

that account: But even allowing for this deficiency for those counties whose Militia were never raised, for deaths and for infirmities, we shall certainly be very moderate in taking the trained men now fit for service in this country, exclusive of the present regiments, at fifty thousand. What proportion the officers who have left the Militia bear to this number, I cannot form a tolerable computation of, but supposing there now only to exist half the number of the present Militia establishment fit for service, there will (as the Militia regiments were in general very strongly

strongly officered, none of the companies, I believe, consisting of above sixty men, some originally of only forty) be sufficient to command the above body, at least when added to the officers of the army, who have quitted, or are on half pay ; and though many of those Gentlemen, both Army and Militia, are residing on their estates, or following different professions, and would not be willing, nay indeed could not in justice to themselves and families again devote their time to the service of the state in the existing Militia ; yet an enemy actually landed, the major part
would

would and could with propriety fly to the assistance of their country. Most professions would be at a stand, and the most effectual way of taking care of their property, would be in arms.

To hold this body of men in readiness for service, in the manner least inconvenient to themselves and at the smallest expence possible, must be the next object of our consideration. The mode proposed is this :

On the commencement of actual war, and not before, let an account
be

be taken of the names and places of residence of the private men. The officers, it is presumed, will willingly give in theirs, nor is any unwillingness suspected in the others; but as their circumstances are different, some compensation must be made for the loss of time. The following regulations would perhaps prove effectual both to induce them to inroll themselves, and to keep them in sufficient readiness for the service that will be required of them. As they are only to be called upon when an enemy is *actually landed*; a call to which every able man in
the

the kingdom will be equally liable ;
for the foe once landed, the King
has a right to the personal service
of every individual, and martial
law becomes the law of the land.

I. That each county be divided
into districts in the center of each
of which the men enrolled be mustered
twice a year.

II. That as the call for their
service, should it ever happen, must
be instant, proper cloathing be provided
in readines for such event.

C

The

The following are estimates of the charges attending the proposed measures.

Particulars and estimate of the charge of cloathing for fifty thousand men according to the above plan.

A jacket and waistcoat of white Gloucestershire kersey, - -	0	12	0
A round white hat and cockade	0	1	8
A pair of white yarn boot stockings	0	1	0
A pair of black leather garters and buckles - -	0	0	4
	0	15	0

Cloathing for 50,000 men, at Fifteen shillings each, amounts to - 37,500

This cloathing to be kept in the center parish church of each district,

trict, to be worn only on muster days, and to be delivered out only on occasion of the men being called upon in case of invasion, or at the conclusion of the war, when it is to become their property, and it is presumed as working cloaths (with a view to which it has been projected) will be no undefirable acquisition.

Annual expence.

Pay to 50,000 men 2 muster days	
in each year, at 4s. per day	- 20,000
Salary to clerks, care of the cloathing and contingent expences at 2s.	
per man per annum.	- 5000
	25000

By this mode a body of fifty thousand men would be readiness for instant service at an expence of 37,500 *l.* on the commencement, and an annual expence of 25,000 *l.* during the continuance of the war; should they ever be called out about 20*s.* each would furnish them with breeches, shirts, shoes, and every other necessary they could have occasion for.

Having thus it is apprehended pointed out a body of fifty thousand trained men to be always in readiness for the defence of their country, we shall next consider the city militia,

militia, and endeavour to form a plan for raising them from their present despicable state to such a respectable situation as becomes the dignity of the metropolis, and as might enable them, if called upon, to emulate the conduct of their ancestors, who in the last century distinguished themselves among the foremost Troops both for discipline and valour.

The city militia consists of six regiments, distinguished by their different colours, yellow, red, orange, green, blue and white, amounting in the whole to about seven thousand men.

It is needless to enquire into their present establishment and expence; some alterations may be necessary to the following plan, but the general idea is certainly practicable and applicable.

PLAN of discipline for the CITY MILITIA.

That each Regiment furnish one hundred and fifty men with proper officers to serve for three years, the uniform to be of the same make, but each detachment to be faced with the colour of the Regiment which furnishes it, and to be new loathed at the expiration of every third year.

In

In what manner the officers to these detachments should be supplied by the respective Regiments, may be a matter of future consideration, should the above or any similar measure be adopted.

This will form a battalion of nine hundred men to be trained and exercised twenty-eight days in every year, upon the plan of the present county militia, but not to be subject to be called out but in case of actual invasion or rebellion, in which it might either act as a battalion by itself or each detachment being incorporated with the regiment

ment from which it was furnished, they would, by their knowledge of discipline, and the example they would give, soon render the whole serviceable troops, as the rest would in time have the advantage of, consisting for the most part of trained men by the rotation above proposed to be observed, in order to effect which the more speedily, should the measure be now adopted, it might not be improper to take three hundred men from each regiment, during the continuance of the impending war, which (should the expence considered as permanent, be thought too great) might be reduced

duced to half the number on the conclusion of peace, and either revived again, as a war establishment or not, as the effect it would have on training the whole body, or as the circumstances of the nation at the time should dictate.

It may be observed that I suppose the whole expence to be borne by the city, as an establishment peculiar to itself, should the charge be esteemed too great, and should it be thought proper to defray it in the same manner as is now done for the county militia, the battalion formed by detachment from
the

the different regiments must also be liable to be called out on danger of war or invasion.

ESTIMATE of the charge of a battalion consisting of nine Captains, 19 Lieutenants, 17 Ensigns, one Adjutant, 36 Serjeants, 18 Drummers, and 900 rank and file, to be exercised 28 days in the year. The Adjutant, Serjeants, and Drummers to be in constant pay, the field officers to receive captains pay during the time of exercise.

One

One Grenadier, and eight battalion companies, of 100 men each.

	£.	s.	d.
9 Captains, 28 days, at 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	94	10	0
19 Lieutenants, 28 days, at 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	93	2	0
17 Ensigns, 28 days at 3 <i>s.</i>	71	8	0
1 Adjutant, 365 days, at 6 <i>s.</i>	109	10	0
36 Serjeants, 365 days, at 1 <i>s.</i>	657	0	0
18 Drums, 365 days, at 6 <i>d.</i>	164	5	0
Additional for Serjeant Major			
365 days, at 6 <i>d.</i>	9	2	6
Ditto for drum Major, ditto	9	2	6
900 Private, 28 days, at 1 <i>s.</i>	1260	0	0
	2468	0	0

ESTIMATE of the charge of
cloathing for a battalion of nine
hundred rank and file, to be new
cloathed once in three years;
thirty

thirty six Serjeants, eighteen drummers, to be new cloathed annually.

900 rank and file cloathed once

in three years, at 1*l.* 10*s.* each.

1350 is per annum. — 450 0 0

36 Serjeants cloathed annually,

at 3*l.* — 108 0 0

18 Drummers cloathed annually

at 2*l.* 10*s.* — 45 0 0

Extra for Serjeant Major 2 0 0

Ditto for Drum Major -- 2 0 0

607 0 0

By the foregoing estimates the whole annual charge of a battalion would be £. 3075 ; but there is an expence to be incurred on their first establishment, in which

I would wish the City to be even lavish, not only for their own honor and safety, but, to set a much wanted example ; I mean the providing of arms : To spare no expence in raising and disciplining troops, and then, through ill judged parsimony to furnish them with defective arms, has ever appeared to me the extream of absurdity.---
 A soldier's arms should be the most perfect of the kind. Is he to depend on his fire, his piece should never miss : Is the bayonet to be used, it should never break or unfix.

Four

Four pounds a man would I apprehend be amply sufficient for the purpose, including accoutrements, drums, colours, &c. which would amount to 3600l. the battalion, and might be considered as an expence never to occur again: The arms would last half a century; and as to the other more perishable articles, the saving arising from the pay of the men, who from sickness or any other impediment, did not join at the time of exercise, would form a fund to replace them to eternity, and to answer any other contingent expences. Should the whole body
be

be called on in case of actual invasion they must be furnished with arms from the Tower, which, we should hope, by that time, the city having set the example, would be somewhat different from those at present usually delivered out.

The Tower Hamlets furnish another body of about four thousand. They might either be put on the establishment of the county militia, as they were in the year 1759, when they were to furnish 1160 men, or they might be disciplined on the same plan as above proposed for the city, which perhaps would
be

be thought the most eligible, as there were undoubtedly good reasons for omitting them in the subsequent militia acts.

The Royal Docks will supply us with 7000, most athletic and very well trained men.

Let us now sum up our Forces :

Regular Troops,	—	30,000
Established Militia,	—	30,000
Trained Men,	—	50,000
City Militia,	—	7,000
Tower Hamlets,	—	4,000
Royal Dock Regiments	—	7,000
Total	—	128,000

If

If it is possible this force should not be thought sufficient to eat up any army that could invade us, there are innumerable other resources in this kingdom ; and that the number might be doubled in case of necessity, is easy to demonstrate.

Modern wars, especially between England and France, have been in great measure competitions of expence. Money has been called the sinews of war ; and to put your antagonist to the greatest charge possible, with the least expence to yourself, is certainly sound and ef-

D

fectual

fectual policy. This game France has always played with too much success on the first appearance of any dispute with England. Menaces of invasion, and marching troops to the coast, have been the means she has employed to alarm and impoverish this country. Should the proposed measures be adopted, we might look upon her motions with indifference, nor would it be worth enquiry whether her troops were on the coasts, or in the most remote parts of the kingdom.

The disposition of these forces should they be ever called upon, is
not

not the writer's province: the mode of defence must be in some degree adapted to the attack: but he hopes it will not be thought too presumptuous to observe, that when a nation is united within itself, every hour weakens the assailant, and strengthens the assailed; that these troops would be constantly improving even in face of the enemy; and that the invader's only hope can be in celerity, the invaded's certainty is in delay.

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JOHNSON.

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